

## GETS OVATION ALONG THE WAY

### Taft's Trip Down Mississippi is Marked by Enthusiastic Demonstrations.

### CROWDS AT STOPPING PLACES

At Cape Girardeau and Cairo, Where President Makes Addresses, the People of Surrounding Country Gather on Levees and River Front is Gay

**With Flags and Bunting.**

Cairo, Ill., Oct. 26.—The first day of President Taft's trip down the Mississippi river witnessed a repetition of the enthusiastic demonstrations that have marked every stage of his transcontinental tour. At every town and hamlet on both sides of the great waterway the coming of the picturesque flotilla of seventeen steamboats, with the trim little torpedo boats proudly leading the way, was heralded by the blowing of whistles and the ringing of bells. During the night buses, horse-

Good Progress is Made.

Daybreak this morning found the picturesque river cavalcade one hundred miles from the starting point. The night trip had been made without any untoward incident. Toward 6 o'clock the flotilla came in sight of Cape Girardeau, which was to be the first stop. The Oleander, with the president and his personal party aboard, was in the lead. Then came the steamer Mississippi, with other government officials; the St. Paul, with the governors and foreign diplomats; the Quincy, with the congressional delegation, and the steamers Alton, Savannah, Cape Girardeau, G. W. Hill and Chester, carrying delegations of business men and others interested in the development of the Mississippi river.

**President Addressing Crowds.**  
Despite the early hour the entire population of Cape Girardeau and the surrounding country turned out to greet the president. The Oleander was made fast to the wharf and for fifteen or twenty minutes the president addressed the crowd from the deck of the steamboat. Then the signal to cast off was given and amid tremendous cheers the firing of guns and the waving of hats and handkerchiefs the journey down the river was resumed.

The Cape Girardeau program was repeated at Cairo, which city was reached shortly before noon. A stay of one hour was made here. The river front was gay with flags and bunting and the levees were black with people. At 1 o'clock the journey was resumed. The program provided for a brief stop at Hickman, Ky., late this afternoon. Memphis will be reached tomorrow morning and there the fleet will be joined by a Lee line steamer carrying the Tennessee delegation to the New Orleans convention.

Memphis, Tenn., Oct. 26.—Everything is in readiness for the reception of President Taft, who is due to arrive here at 8 o'clock tomorrow morning. The president will leave his steamer and spend four hours in the city, and during that time he will deliver an address and take an automobile ride. The streets through which the president will travel have been decorated lavishly.

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**ERA OF LOW MORTALITY.**

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**It Has Been Reached by the Civilized World, Says Report.**

Washington, Oct. 26.—“The civilized world has indeed arrived at an era of low mortality.”

This conclusion is stated in Census Bureau Bulletin 104, on mortality statistics for 1908, prepared by Dr. Cressey L. Wilbur, chief statistician for vital statistics under Director Durand who has transmitted it to Secretary

The death rate of the registration states in 1908 was 15.5 per 1,000 of population which was slightly lower than that for the entire registration area, 13.4 per 1,000, and it is the lowest on record. Dr. Wilbur states it is probably the lowest death rate that has ever occurred in the United States.

The death rate of the rural portions of the registration states is still lower, being only 13.2 per 1,000, while that of the urban population was 16.5 per 1,000; the latter including all cities having a population of 5,000 or more inhabitants in 1900, and being, in recent censuses

The death rate of England and Wales for 1968 was only 14.7 per 1,000 of population, and of London for the same year, 15.3 per 1,000. For each year since 1882 the death rate of England and Wales has been less than 16 per thousand, with the exception of the year 1904 for which year it was 16.2 per 1,000, while no rate as low has been recorded for any previous years of

The early publication of the data relating to the mortality of the year 1968 for the registration area of the United States was only made possible by the increased promptness of the returns from the state and city offices, most of

which now make monthly reports.